

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) A The level wind mechanism for a fishing reel configured to guide fishing line onto a spool while moving the fishing line in a direction parallel to a rotational axis of the spool, said level wind mechanism comprising: according to claim 1,

a spiral shaft having spiral grooves in an outer peripheral surface thereof, said spiral shaft extending in a direction parallel to the rotational axis of the spool and being rotatively supported by a reel unit adjacent to the spool;

a fishing line guide portion being configured to move reciprocally along said spiral shaft in synchronization with rotation of the spool at least when the spool winds the fishing reel, said fishing line guide portion having

a main member,

an engagement member being provided on said main member and configured to engage said spiral shaft, and

a tubular member having a line guide hole through which the fishing line passes, said line guide hole being formed to taper toward a first side from which the fishing line is paid out, and

a guide member disposed extending in a direction along said spiral shaft to guide said fishing line guide portion in a direction along said spiral shaft,

wherein said line guide hole is tapered such that its width in a direction parallel to said spiral shaft is smaller on the first side.

3. (Currently Amended) The level wind mechanism according to claim 2 [[1]],
wherein

said line guide hole is tapered such that its upper inner surface is slanted at a greater angle of inclination than its lower inner surface.

4. (Currently Amended) The level wind mechanism according to claim 2 [[1]],
wherein

said line guide hole is circular in shape.

5. (Original) The level wind mechanism according to claim 4, wherein
a ratio of a diameter of said line guide hole on the first side to a diameter of said line guide hole on a second side is greater than or equal to 0.2 and less than 0.8, the second side being an opposite side from the first side.

6. (Currently Amended) The level wind mechanism according to claim 4,
wherein

a ratio of a difference between a diameter of said line guide hole on the first side and a diameter of said line guide hole on the second side ~~from~~ to an axial length of said line guide hole is 0.4 or greater.

7. (Currently Amended) The level wind mechanism according to claim 2 [[1]],
wherein

an inner peripheral surface of said line guide hole is at least partially adapted to be
substantially parallel with an axial direction of a fishing rod.

8. (Currently Amended) The level wind mechanism according to claim 2 [[1]],
wherein

said line guide hole is at least partially chamfered.

9. (Currently Amended) The level wind mechanism according to claim 2 [[1]],
wherein

said main member has a screw hole formed therein, and

said tubular member has an engagement portion, said tubular member being secured
to said main member by a screw member engaging said engagement portion and said screw
hole.

10. (Currently Amended) The level wind mechanism according to claim 3,
wherein

the lower inner ~~peripheral~~ surface of said line guide hole is at least partially adapted to
be substantially parallel with an axial direction of a fishing rod.

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) A The dual bearing fishing reel comprising: according to claim 11,

a reel unit being adapted to be mounted to a fishing rod;

a spool being rotatively attached to said reel unit, said spool being configured to have fishing line wound around an outer periphery thereof; and

a level wind mechanism being configured to guide fishing line onto said spool while moving the fishing line in a direction parallel to a rotational axis of said spool, said level wind mechanism having

a spiral shaft having spiral grooves in an outer peripheral surface thereof, said spiral shaft extending in a direction parallel to said rotational axis of said spool and being rotatively supported by said reel unit adjacent to said spool,

a fishing line guide portion being configured to move reciprocally along said spiral shaft in synchronization with rotation of said spool at least when said spool winds the fishing reel, said fishing line guide portion having a main member,

an engagement member being provided on said main member and configured to engage said spiral shaft, and

a tubular member having a line guide hole through which the fishing line passes, said line guide hole being formed to taper toward a first side from which the fishing line is paid out, and

a guide member disposed extending in a direction along said spiral shaft to
guide said fishing line guide portion in the direction along said spiral
shaft,

wherein said line guide hole is tapered such that its width in a direction parallel to said spiral shaft is smaller on the first side.

13. (Currently Amended) The dual bearing fishing reel according to claim 12 ~~11~~,
wherein

said line guide hole is tapered such that its upper inner surface is slanted at a greater angle of inclination than its lower inner surface.

14. (Currently Amended) The dual bearing fishing reel according to claim 12 ~~11~~,
wherein

said line guide hole is circular in shape.

15. (Original) The dual bearing fishing reel according to claim 14, wherein
a ratio of a diameter of said line guide hole on the first side to a diameter of said line guide hole on a second side is greater than or equal to 0.2 and less than 0.8, the second side being an opposite side from the first side.

16. (Currently Amended) The dual bearing fishing reel according to claim 14,
wherein

a ratio of a difference between a diameter of said line guide hole on the first side and a diameter of said line guide hole on the second side ~~from~~ to an axial length of said line guide hole is 0.4 or greater.

17. (Currently Amended) The dual bearing fishing reel according to claim 12 ~~11~~, wherein

an inner peripheral surface of said line guide hole is at least partially adapted to be substantially parallel with an axial direction of the fishing rod.

18. (Currently Amended) The dual bearing fishing reel according to claim 12 ~~11~~, wherein

said line guide hole is at least partially chamfered.

19. (Currently Amended) The dual bearing fishing reel according to claim 12 ~~11~~, wherein

said main member has a screw hole formed therein, and

said tubular member has an engagement portion, said tubular member being secured to said main member by a screw member engaging said engagement portion and said screw hole.

20. (Currently Amended) The dual bearing fishing reel according to claim 13 ~~11~~, wherein

the lower inner ~~peripheral~~ surface of said line guide hole is at least partially adapted to be substantially parallel with an axial direction of a fishing rod.